time and efforts required for collection of the same will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

Opening of electronic exchanges in National Capital region

3300. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to open new electronic telephone exchanges in big cities and towns of the National Capital Region to develop telecommunication facilities and to meet the growing needs of the region; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) YES, Sir.

(b) Details are given in the statement.

Statement

S.No.	Name of Town	Type of Electronic exchange	No. of Electronic exchange lines proposed during the 7th Five Year Plan
1	Faridabad	E-10B (M)	12100
2	Bahadurgarh	RUL(E-10B)	2000
3	Gurgaon	E-10B (M)	6000*
4	Dharuhera	NEAX	400
5	Palwal	NEAX	900
6	Alwar	PRX	4000@
7	Bhiwadi	NEAX	400
8	Ghaziabad	E-10B	4000
		RLU(E-10B)	2000
9	Noida	E-10B(Æ)	4000
10	Khurja	NEQX	1000

* A 3000 lines PRX electronic exchange was commissioned replacing 1800 lines old strowger exchange at Gurgaon during 1985-86. It was further expanded to 4000 lines during 86-87. This exchange is proposed to be replaced by a new digital 6000 lines E-10B exchange by the end of the 7th Plan.

@ A 3000 lines PRX electronic exchange was commissioned replacing 2000 lines old strowger exchange at Alwar during 1985-86. This exchange is proposed to be expanded further by another 1000 lines by the end of 7th Plan.

Telephone exchange in Minto Road area of New Delhi

3301. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have acquired land for setting up a new telephone exchange in Minto Road area of New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details of progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The architectural drawing for the proposed telephone exchange building have been submitted to the local authorities for approval

This exchange is likely to be commissioned during the later half of the 8th Five Year Plan subject to availability of resources.

Utilisation of Telecommunications facility in Tamil Nadu

3302. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is under utilisation of telecommunication facility in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the annual total revenue earning from the telecommunication system in Tamil Nadu in 1986 and 1987 separately;

(c) whether any study has been conducted on the potential revenue increase if the STD rates are reduced; and

(d) what steps have been taken to implement reduction of STD rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The total annual revenue earning from Telecommunication system in Tamil Nadu is given as under:—

(i) During 86-87 . Rs. 1,74,63,55,786.43

(ii) During 87-88 Rs. 2,32,20,83,731.13

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The work of technical modification required in the telephone exchanges for introduction of the plan to reduce the STD tariff between 10 P.M. to 6 A.M. for national STD calls to about 33 per cent of the normal period is in progress.

Improvement in the telegraphic system

3303. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the public dissatisfaction with the telegraphic system;

(b) whether it is possible to refund the amount for all telegrams not delivered within 24 hours; and

(c) what measures Government are taking to improve the telegraphic system to achieve at least their 95 per cent timely delivery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Although some complaints have been received from the members of public against delay in delivery of telegrams and poor service in remote rural areas, there has been significant improvement in the telegraph service in the country.

(b) It is possible to refund the telegraph charges for telegrams not delivered within 24 hours if the telegram has not served its purpose.

(c) The Department has initiated the following measures to improve the telegraph system:

1. Providing standby power supply units in Telegraph Officers in a phased manner to combat load shedding;

2. Using isulated wire in fault prone jungle of plantation areas to reduce fault incidence on telegraph circuits working on open wire lines;

3. Installation of store and forward message switching systems to avoid manua transiting and to reduce consequent delays and congestion of traffic;

4. Replacement of electromechanical teleprinters and morse key system with electronic teleprinters and electronic key boards.